

Journal

Office of Legislative Counsel

27 March 1956 - Tuesday

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1. Attended a luncheon with Gen. Cabell, Messrs. Houston, Scoville, White and Mansfield Sprague, General Counsel of the Department of Defense. Mr. Sprague is in charge of coordinating the Executive branch presentation to the Symington Subcommittee on Air Force Procurement. Mr. Sprague said that he felt quite confident that CIA could be spared any direct participation in the hearings of the subcommittee. He also expressed the view that Senator Symington would probably conduct these hearings in a manner so as to avoid undue publicity. I indicated that we had received one or two requests for information from the subcommittee staff. Mr. Sprague stated no objection to our supplying information directly to the staff or to committee members on their request, but requested that we send copies of any material furnished to him. I undertook to do so.

2. In the absence of Chairman Vinson of the House Armed Services Committee, discussed with Mr. Smart, Chief Counsel, the proposed invitation to subcommittee members He advised that he was sure Chairman Vinson would think this an excellent idea, and urged that we release the letters of invitation without waiting to check with him. He also urged, however, that the Director touch base with the Speaker of the House before issuing the invitations. The Speaker was evidently greatly annoyed by a recent junket arranged by the Navy without any prior notification to him.

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